been affected are Gems and Jewellery, Leather and Leather products, Marine, Textile, Handloom. Carpets, Handicrafts, Automobile, SMEs, Plastics and Linoleum, etc. The Government and the RBI are closely monitoring both the domestic and international economic developments. Some of the steps recently taken by Government to arrest the decline in export growth rate is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended answer to unstarred Question 247, Part (c) and (d)]

**Updated Sample Survey related to job losses (Direct and Indirect) for export related industries (from Aug. '08 to 16.1.09)**

| Sl. No. | Product Group | No. of units surveyed | Loss in export order (in Rs. Lakhs) | Job loss in Nos. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Leather and Leather Products | 25 | 32526.15 | 6153 |
| 2. | Marine products | 20 | 12889.01 | 781 |
| 3. | Minerals and Mineral Processing: (Granite, Iron Ore etc.) | 13 | 32767 | 198 |
| 4. | Automobiles and Auto Components Sector | 26 | 159936 | 8130 |
| 5. | Coir | 3 | 1047 | 260 |
| 6. | Spices | 6 | 5376 | 1276 |
| 7. | Garments and textiles | 68 | 76562.3 | 16647 |
| 8. | Handloom | 17 | 9565 | 1553 |
| 9. | Fruits, Vegetables and Food items | 27 | 10371.42 | 3456 |
| 10. | Gemstones and Jewellery | 16 | 26609.66 | 1412 |
| 11. | Handicrafts | 72 | 16478.54 | 11762 |
| 12. | Jute goods | 3 | 2507 | 300 |
| 13. | Engineering goods | 43 | 99508.29 | 5041 |
| 14. | Chemicals | 35 | 42955.82 | 38103 |
| 15. | Drugs and pharmaceuticals | 11 | 31015.37 | 263 |
| 16. | Plastics | 5 | 24554 | 1232 |
| 17. | Misc. products including sports goods | 12 | 42539.39 | 12946 |
| | Grand Total | 402 | 627207.95 | 109513 |

**Restriction on export of rice**

256. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a total ban on export of all varieties of rice from India;

(b) if so, the reasons for this total ban and what steps are being taken to remove this ban;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a huge drop in foreign exchange earnings due to the ban on export of rice from India;

(d) if so, what is the value of the estimated loss on account of such ban; and

(e) what measures are being taken to lift the ban or give special permissions on a case to case basis depending on the type of such export orders which can bring in good revenue in foreign exchange to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The export of Basmati Rice is allowed subject to Minimum Export price (MEP) and Port Regulations. The export of Non-Basmati Rice is prohibited.

(b) Government has put restrictions on export of rice with a view to ensure its domestic availability at affordable prices.

(c) and (d) The export of rice during April - September 2008, as compared to the same period in the previous year is given below:

Value in US$ Million

| | April-September 2007 | April-September 2008 |
|---|---|---|
| Basmati Rice | 372.16 | 1062.33 |
| Non-Basmati Rice | 794.12 | 300.76 |

(e) Government has been monitoring the availability of stocks, price, etc. and has recently decided to reduce the MEP to $ 1100 and to remove the duty on export of Basmati Rice.

**Rise in cement prices**

257. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's measures to keep cement prices under check seem to have had a cascading effect on companies price realizations;

(b) if so, what are main reasons puts forward by these industries and whether they have pointed out that raw material cost has gone up by 11% to Rs. 2730 crore for the first quarter of the calendar year 2008;

(c) if so, what are steps Government propose to take in this regard to check rise of cement prices;

(d) whether any limit has been fixed for each quantity of cement; and